

IN THE SPECIFICATION ADD

AT PAGE 9, AFTER THE PARAGRAPH BEGINNING WITH "FIGURE 8", ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

b6 **»» Detailed Description of the Invention »»**

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the application on various bases. In response, Applicant has amended the application so as to overcome the rejections of the Examiner. Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As a clerical matter, the Examiner has acknowledged receipt of the papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. §119. These papers are now part of the record.

As another clerical matter, Applicant has amended the claims so as to remove the reference numerals from the claims. This is done solely to better comply with format of claims in the United States, and Applicant submits that there is no effect on the scope of the claims.

The Examiner has objected to the specification and has required the addition of the phrase -- Detailed Description of the Invention -- at the appropriate location. In response, Applicant has added this phrase in the appropriate location on page 9. Of course, this does not constitute new matter or otherwise adversely alter the scope of the disclosure.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on the contention that it is anticipated by Nishi et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,883,704. Applicant traverses the rejections of the

Examiner.

In particular, Applicant submits that the Nishi et al '704 reference does not disclose that which is claimed in claims 1-24, as examined. Nishi et al '704 discloses a projection optical system comprising a plurality of active correcting means for compensating imaging errors occurring in the course of the projecting process. Among a plurality of the other correcting means, means 12 (cf. Fig. 1 and 2) are provided for controlling the pressure of a gas in the space between two lenses 33, 34. As specifically explained at col. 10, lines 56 - 66, the correcting means serve for correcting imaging errors like magnification, z-focal position and curvature of field. Further, as explained in Col. 11, lines 18-21, the correcting means 12 is adapted to compensate for linear error in magnification. Moreover, the reference discloses imaging errors which are rotationally asymmetric (cf. the discussion of the effects on the curvatures of field produced by a u-form flexed reticle in column 24, lines 10-29 and Fig. 31).

Despite these teachings, there is no teaching (nor suggestion) that rotationally asymmetric imaging could be influenced by the pressure of a gas in the space between lenses as claimed in claim 1. Significantly, there is no mention that lenses 33 and 34 in the Nishi et al '704 (which are separated by a space where a specific gas pressure can be applied) are rotationally asymmetric. Without such a configuration, a rotationally asymmetric influence of a change of gas pressure on the imaging characteristics of the optical system of Nishi et al '704 is not possible.

As a result, Applicant submits that the invention as claimed in claim 1 defines over the prior art of record. In turn, Applicant submits that claim 1 should be deemed allowable at the present time.

As the remaining claims 2-24 ultimately depend from claim 1, these claims should likewise be deemed allowable at the present time.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application should be in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

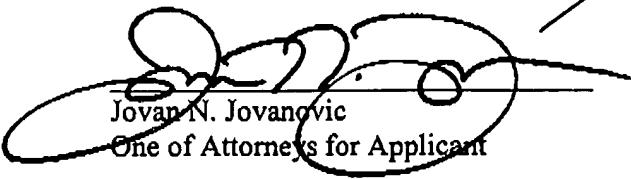


Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818,
is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

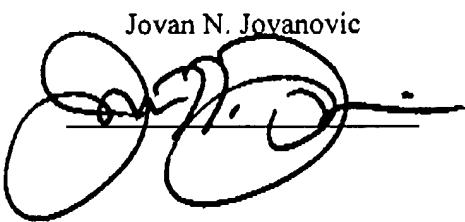
FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: November 15, 2001


Jovan N. Jovanovic
One of Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class
Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner
for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 15, 2001.


Jovan N. Jovanovic